Network client affinity for scalable services

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Abstract of **EP1117227**

A scalable cluster system that provides scalable services for client applications is provided with client affinity. The scalable services are transparent to the client application. To facilitate this transparent scalability, the system provides different types of client affinity (605) to different services for the client applications. Services may have no client affinity, so that different packets sent during different connections could be sent to different nodes on the cluster. Services may have single service client affinity, which causes packets for a single service from different connections from the same source to be sent to the same node. Services may have multiple service client affinity, which causes packets for different services from different connections from the same source to be sent to the same node. Services may have wild card client affinity, which causes packets for different destination ports from different connections from the same source to be sent to the same node.
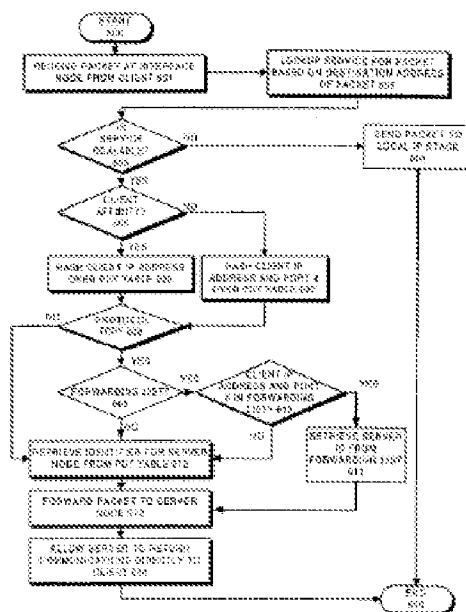
FIG. 6

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